

Remarks

This amendment is submitted in response to the final Office Action mailed June 3, 2005. Claims 7 through 18 provide claim coverage commensurate with the scope of the invention.

The Office Action rejected claims 1 through 6 as being unpatentable over the combination of United States Patent No. 5,988,715 to Mullan et al. ("Mullan") and Japanese Patent Publication 2-58187 to Yamaguchi ("Yamaguchi"). By this paper, the Applicant amends independent claim 1 to traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 requires the reviewing of each candidate string to determine if all candidate characters of a candidate string conform to the same character type. Support for this limitation is found in Fig. 3 and the accompanying text. Examples of character types include numeric, uppercase, lower case, proper case, small caps, symbolic, and Canadian post. Page 3, paragraph 10 and page 10, paragraph 29.

Mullan teaches the sequential storing of characters for specific genres in address registers. (column 3, line 65 to column 4, line 5, and column 10, lines 38-56) As disclosed, alphabetic characters are stored in an alphabetic register, Cyrillic characters are stored in a Cyrillic register, and numeric characters are stored in a numeric register. There is no teaching or suggestion of characters of different types being stored in a register. The joint conditional probabilities of each register are then compared to determine which character type is introduced into an output stream. Column 12, lines 18-41.

Mullan does not disclose reviewing a candidate string to determine if all characters conform to the same character type. Mullan teaches that only characters of the same type are initially entered into the register. Thus, there is no need to review characters for conformance to a character type.

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Claim 1 further requires removing from further consideration any candidate string that includes candidate characters conforming to different character types. Mullan only teaches that registers include characters of the same character type. Mullan does not disclose the removal of strings that include different character types as this does not occur in Mullan's technique.

Yamaguchi teaches the comparison of character patterns of a plurality of character types. Page 3, paragraph 2. Yamaguchi further discloses the consideration of character types of preceding and following characters when selecting a character. Page 8, paragraphs 3 and 4. Yamaguchi looks to the adjacent characters "to judge whether said character of a different character type should be replaced with a character of a character pattern with the greatest resemblance among the character patterns of the same character type as that of the preceding and following characters. Page 8, paragraph 4. Yamaguchi uses character type as a factor in replacing individual characters. However, Yamaguchi does not remove a character string that includes different character types. After Yamaguchi has formed a character string, no more consideration is given to conformance of the string to a character type. Thus, there is no need to remove an entire character string that includes different character types.

"To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art." MPEP § 2143.03. Mullan and Yamaguchi individually and in combination do not teach all limitations of claim 1. The cited references do not teach or suggest a review of character strings for character type conformance and eliminating those that include different character types. In Mullan, only characters conforming to a given type are entered. In Yamaguchi, character type is only considered

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when selecting individual character candidates. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claim 1.

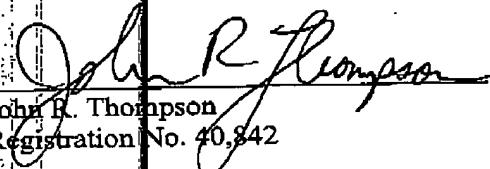
As depending claims 2 through 6 include all the limitations of independent claim 1, they likewise contain patentable subject matter. Claims 7 through 18 include limitations similar to claim 1 and represent patentable subject matter for the reasons discussed above.

Applicant believes the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the same. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned if any issues remain.

Respectfully submitted,

RAF TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

By


John R. Thompson
Registration No. 40,842

STOEL RIVES LLP
One Utah Center
201 South Main Street, Suite 1100
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
Telephone: (801) 578-6994
Facsimile: (801) 578-6999

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